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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Beyond War Strategy and Weapons; USACE Supports 4th Army

By Julie Cupernall
Gulf Region North

TIKRIT, Iraq – Along with tactical training, infrastructure maintenance training is being used to ensure the success of the Iraqi Army.

Members of the US Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North (GRN) district recently visited the 4th Iraqi Army Division headquarters at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Dagger in Tikrit. Their mission was two-fold – to continue good relations with the nearby base, and to see how the facilities there were being maintained.

In January 2006 the Corps of Engineers completed the installation of 6 generators and switch gear, and a base-sustaining water treatment facility. These facilities were put in place to ensure that the basic needs of the Iraqi Soldiers were being met allowing them to better keep their minds on their security and training mission.

The Corps also provided Preventative Maintenance Service and Checks (PMSC) training to members of the 4th Iraqi Army for the newly installed facilities. This training is important because often it introduces a new way of thinking to Iraqi workers. In Saddam's time, spare parts were scarce and maintenance was thought of as fixing something after it is broken. PMSC offers a new plan – maintenance to ensure something doesn't break – actions like changing the oil and filters on a generator that can save thousands of dollars in spare parts and man-hours.



This water treatment facility installed by the US Army Corps of Engineers on Forward Operating Base Dagger in Tikrit services the 4th Iraqi Army Division. A project completed in January 2006 by the US Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North provided FOB Dagger with reliable water and electricity USACE also taught members of the 4th Iraqi Army Division how to maintain the infrastructure that keeps water flowing through these tanks. *(photo by Lana Aziz, USACE GRN Iraqi Public Affairs Specialist)*

"It's a very impressive base. Everything we saw there was clean. We actually saw them changing the oil on one of the generators. They have consistent water. They have consistent electricity. The system is working right," said Chris Nelsen, US Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North, Tikrit Resident Office Engineer.

Preventative maintenance is sustaining the facilities at FOB Dagger, and the facilities are sustaining the morale of the troops there.



In January of 2006 GRN completed the installation of 6 generators. USACE also renovated three substation buildings, installed new switch gear and replaced underground electrical cabling to support the new infrastructure on Forward Operating Base Dagger in Tikrit, home of the 4th Iraqi Army Division. *(photo by Lana Aziz, USACE GRN Iraqi Public Affairs Specialist)*

"We talked with the new commander of the 4th Iraqi Army and he is pleased. We sat in an office where the air conditioning was running and the electricity was on. They have water. The morale of the troops there is good because their basic needs are being met and that helps them fight the fight," said Nelsen.

The US Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North district was tasked with 1,500 projects in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at a cost of nearly 2.6 billion dollars. GRN has completed over 1,100 of those projects.